driver's negligence], December 1995.

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On December 1st, 1995, at 9:45 PM I decided to take the 8-Market bus from the corner of Castro and Market Streets to go downtown to Civic Center, the area near which I live.

I noticed that the sidewalk was rather narrow on this corner but I was not especially worried about this at the time, having boarded buses at similar points in the city. Provided that the bus driver stops sufficiently far from the curb, there is more than enough room for me to maneuver my chair onto the ramp.

This driver, however, brought the bus very close to the curb. He activated the ramp, which came out quickly and further above the ground than usual towards my chair. The edge of the ramp pushed up against the front wheels of the chair and began to literally squash me and the chair against the wall behind me. I shouted at the driver, "Back up! There's not enough room for me to get onto the ramp." Several other ambulatory potential passengers also shouted at him to back the bus further away from the curb. The driver ignored our appeals. I caught the toes of my left foot on the edge of the ramp, bending my foot backwards beneath me. I started screaming in pain and telling him: "You're breaking my foot! Back the bus up! Back the bus up!" The people next to me were also yelling at him to back the bus up also. The driver appeared oblivious. There was no question that he could hear as we were yelling loud and the bus wasn't that noisy. Finally, too late for my foot's sake, the driver did back the bus up and I got on the ramp with no problem and boarded the bus.

Though I feared my foot was broken, I thought it best to get home and call an ambulance from there rather than wait around in the street in the cold. When I complained to the driver again, he said that the ramp was malfunctioning. This was not the case; it appeared to function normally; it was his judgment that was at fault. He gave his name as Will Jackson. This turns out to be a fake name; when I identified him at the subsequent hearing at Muni in March, I was introduced to him as Mr. Cherry (this being the name he is known by at work).

When I got home after the accident I was in extreme pain and my ankle had swelled up considerably. I was taken by ambulance to California Pacific Medical Center, where my foot was x-rayed. It turned out that it was sprained and some ligaments were torn. Altogether, I have medical bills over $1,700. My leg was put in a temporary cast for three weeks. I had to employ a carpenter to build a special platform to support my leg. This cost me over $50.

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